

[2] Case Vignette

Case 73-year-old woman

Chief complaint: difficulty in moving the body.

Past history: none in particular

Present illness: she has been unable to move her body for about six months. These days, she is unable to get up in the morning and just lies down on her futon. She is unable to cook meals or go shopping, so apart from a packed lunch delivered once a week by a welfare worker, which she eats in several portions, she eats bread and other food delivered by a home delivery service. She has not had a bath for some time. Her physician said there was nothing wrong with her.

Life history: She has no brother or sister. When she was a child, she lived mostly with her mother, as her father lived elsewhere and only visited occasionally. After finishing high school, she worked in a dressmaking shop; she married at the age of 28 and gave birth when she was 30 and 33, but divorced when she was 35. After that, she managed to raise her children by working as a cleaner, etc. Since children grew up, she has lived alone. After retiring at the age of 60, she gradually found it difficult to make ends meet financially and has been living on public assistance since the age of 68.

Presenting symptoms: She lives alone. She was brought to the hospital by her daughter. She has no problems with walking. Her speech is firm, and she is able to answer questions properly. She has standing, dizziness, and stubborn constipation. Her house is quite dirty with dust and hair.

Applicants are required to submit an abstract responding to the following questions.

Q1. When this patient comes to you, what diagnoses would you include in your differential, and what tests would you perform? Please include comorbidities.

Q2. How many older people live alone in your country?

Q3. To what extent are loneliness, insecurity, and poverty among older people a social problem in your country?

Q4. What systems exist in your country to support these people?